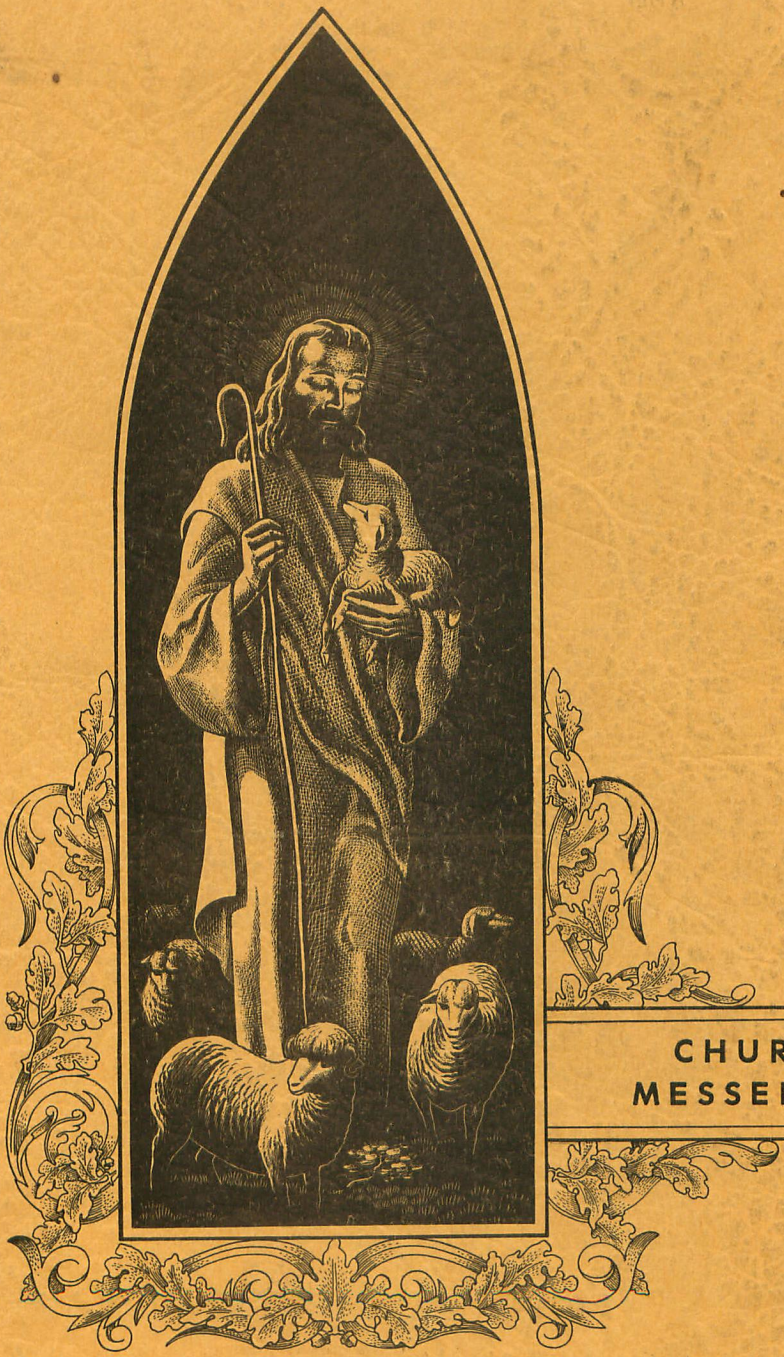

CHURCH MESSENGER

Ellendale Historical Society

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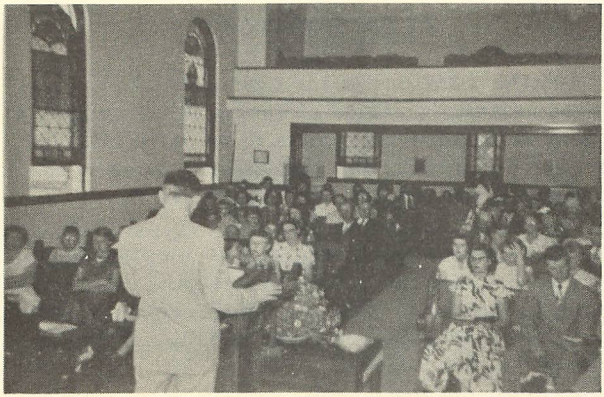
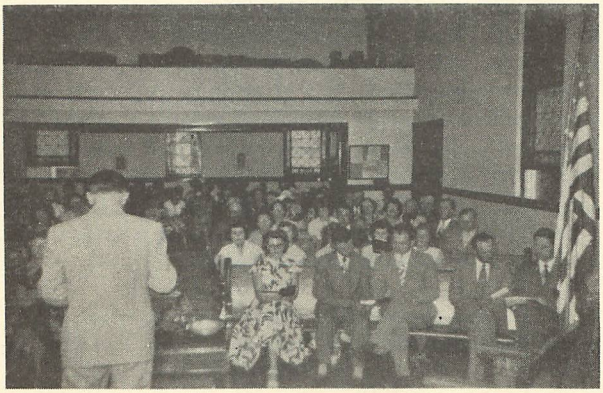
The Church



MORNING CONGREGATION



MORNING CONGREGATION

CHURCH HISTORY

A short history of the church has been prepared relating a series of events in its progress which we believe will prove to be of definite interest. Because of the loss of all church records in the great Ellendale fire, May 9, 1916, when the Baptist Church and parsonage were destroyed, it is impossible to prepare a complete history of the church. There are at hand no records prior to that date. Most of the information we have has been gathered from the files of the Dickey County Leader.

The Reverend Loren Wade, as far as is known, held the first Baptist service in Ellendale, April 22, 1883, in the Bergendahl Hall. At this time efforts were made to organize a church but because of the Reverend Wade's ill health, which necessitated his departure, nothing came of this endeavor.

The Reverend Edward M. Ellis was appointed by the American Baptist Home Mission Society to serve as general missionary in Dakota territory. The Reverend Ellis, a man of "sanguine temperament, full of energy and enthusiasm, had unbounded faith in the future of the Dakotas." He entered upon his work with great fervor, organizing churches in the new towns and villages springing up over the prairies. On May 7, 1882, he organized the First Baptist Church of Aberdeen, South Dakota.

The Reverend Ellis held a number of services in Ellendale. On Sunday, April 5, 1884, he conducted a service in Haynes Hall at 2:30 o'clock, speaking from the text, "The People

Had a Mind to Work." Following this service, the Baptist Church was organized with fifteen members present.

Numbered among the charter members of the church were: Dr. and Mrs. David Hull Long, son Fred and daughters Anna and Lillian; Mr. and Mrs. James Thompson and daughters Emma and Della; Mr. and Mrs. George D. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. P. Brown, Mr. Edgar Leighton, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Sperry and son Allen H. Sperry; Mrs. Cynthia Randall and Mr. George H. Putnam. All but the two last mentioned came to Ellendale from Eaton Rapids, Michigan. Four of these are still living. They are Mrs. B. R. Crabtree, nee Anna Long, of Ellendale; Mrs. Lillian Mendell, nee Lillian Long, of Eaton Rapids, Michigan; Mrs. Brainard Scott, nee Emma Thompson, of Fargo, North Dakota; and Mrs. Della Thompson Hyde whose present name and address we are unable to learn.

The Reverend Peter Van Winkle of Manchester, Michigan, became the first regular pastor on September 14, 1884. The following spring he suffered a slight stroke of paralysis and returned to Michigan for treatment. Under his leadership the lot on which the present church stands was purchased of C. H. Prior and a small house of worship (18x28) was erected. This building served the congregation for about four years during the pastorate of the Reverend D. W. Palmer, and also the supply pastorate of the Reverend J. J. Martin of Lowell, Michigan.

In October, 1887, the Reverend A. H. Carman of St. Charles, Minnesota became pastor and served the church until 1891. Under his able leadership a new house of worship was erected

at a cost of about $3,500. and was dedicated November 11, 1888. The Reverend L. M. Shanafelt preached the dedicatory sermon. The church, together with the parsonage, was destroyed in the Ellendale fire, May 9, 1916.

The pastors who served the church between 1891 and 1916 were the following:

H. H. Hewitt, 6 years, 1892-1898
J. R. Hall, 3 years, 1899-1902
A. H. Carman, returned for 1 year 1902-1903
S. W. Hoover, 1 year, 1903-1904
C. C. Williams, 3 years, 1905-1908
A. F. Green, 1 year, 1909-1910
W. H. Rogers, 3 years, 1910-1913
E. A. Kelford, 3 years, 1913-1916

The Reverend Kelford was on the field when the church and parsonage burned. He and his family left soon after the fire and that fall J. W. Gillespie was called to serve as pastor of a congregation with no house of worship. Their meetings were held in homes, the Christian Church, or the Odd Fellows' Hall.

In the spring of 1917, probably in April, the pastor, the Reverend Gillespie, called a special meeting of the church to get the voice of the people in regard to building a new church. Doctor C. E. Tingley, Baptist Superintendent of Missions in North Dakota, was present. The members who attended the meeting felt that they should have a church home. The people again had a mind to work and resolved to build. In the course of time, "the present church edifice rose above the ashes of the former building and was dedicated December 1, 1918." Doctor C. E.

Tingley preached the dedicatory sermon. The new structure cost about $11,000.

In the summer of 1919, Reverend Gillespie resigned to accept a call to the first Baptist Church of Plano, Illinois. On October 12, 1919, a call was extended to J. R. Spiller of Worthington, Minnesota, to serve as pastor of the church, and to begin his work March 1, 1920. The Reverend Spiller gave over four years of untiring labor on the field, closing his work May 1, 1924, to accept a call to the First Baptist Church of Oldham, South Dakota.

Paul E. Johnson, student at Northwestern Bible School, Minneapolis, became the next pastor. He entered upon his work in October, 1924, and served about a year. He left in the fall of 1925 to enter the Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Missouri.

The Reverend E. J. Sprong was extended a call to serve as pastor pro-tem for six months from November 1, 1925 to May 1, 1926.

On March 16, 1926, a call was extended to O. H. Hallgrimson, then a student at the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois, to the pastorate of the church. The Reverend Hallgrimson accepted the call and entered upon his work June 20, 1926.

Under his leadership the church debt and other local bills standing against the church were met. Four series of evangelistic meetings were held with quite a number of additions to the church. Many storms were weathered and the church was then said to be perhaps in better condition, financially, spiritually, and otherwise than it had

been for many years. In the fall of 1934 the Reverend Hallgrimson resigned to accept a call to the First Baptist Church of Ipswich, South Dakota.

From that time until August 1935, we were without a pastor. Then the Reverend Charles W. Stull and his wife came to us from Page, North Dakota, and served the church until June 1936, when the Reverend Stull resigned from the ministry and took a position in Waterloo, Iowa, where he and his wife still reside. That summer Reverend Erling from Dickinson, North Dakota, acted as supply pastor.

Our next regular pastor was the Reverend J. J. Janansek who had been engaged in American Sunday School Union work and was living in Jamestown. He and Mrs. Janansek came to Ellendale September 17, 1936, and were with us three years. This was Reverend Janansek's first pastorage and he was ordained in May 1938 when the association met in Lisbon.

Reverend and Mrs. Janansek were both ardent workers and when they resigned in the fall of 1939 to work in a Faith Mission in northern Minnesota, they left the church much stronger than they had found it.

In the spring of 1940, a call was extended to Henry S. Rohn, then a student at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. Mr. Rohn accepted the call and began his work here after receiving his degree on June 15. His ordination took place May 9, 1941.

Reverend Rohn endeared himself to everyone both old and young, but his work among the young

people of high school and college age was outstanding. He organized and trained a student choir which included a number of N. I. students. The young people of the church sometimes took over the entire evening service. They also visited Kulm and Rutland and held services. It was a year of many activities and much good seed was sown.

Reverend Rohn resigned and left August 17, 1941, to do post-graduate work at Berkeley Baptist Divinity School of Berkeley, California.

At this time we had another long interval without a pastor. Reverend Charles Brown of Minot acted as supply from January 17 to February 22, did some much appreciated calling, and held a Bible study class for two weeks.

Reverend Clifford J. Young of Bottineau, North Dakota, accepted a call to the Ellendale Church in the spring of 1942 and arrived on the field with his wife and two small children on March 1. They remained with us until May 1, 1945, a little over three years.

During this period a number of very active members were brought into the church. Most of them are still with us and strengthen the church spiritually, financially and socially. During Reverend Young's pastorate the Homemaker's Club and the Men's Brotherhood were organized, and both seem to have supplied a need for more Christian social life and fellowship.

On May 1, 1945, Reverend Young resigned and accepted a call to the First Baptist Church of Powers Lake, North Dakota.

This time we were fortunate in securing a pastor without much delay. In May 1945, Reverend George W. Rothery of Detroit, Michigan was called and arrived with Mrs. Rothery and their one small son just in time to be present at the Cheyenne River Association which met with us that year, also on June 11 and June 12.

Reverend Rothery and family were with us until October 1, 1947, when he was called to the First Baptist Church of Fort Madison, Iowa. During Reverend Rothery's pastorate, the church, which had for many years been receiving aid from the American Baptist Home Mission Society and the North Dakota Baptist State Convention, became self-supporting and has remained so since that time. During this time, too, we finished paying for the parsonage which had been purchased in 1940. We also installed a new furnace in the parsonage and a furnace fund for the church was started.

During the next period without a pastor, we were unusually fortunate in being able to get Mr. Norman DeBoer of Aberdeen, South Dakota, to fill the pulpit nearly every Sunday both morning and evening. Mr. DeBoer, though not an ordained minister had taken several years of Bible study and was a very satisfactory substitute.

In the spring of 1948, Reverend A. J. Kleinsasser of Bonestead, South Dakota, accepted a call to our church and with his wife and two small sons settled in the parsonage and began his pastorate March 1, having now been here about fifteen months.

That these months have been busy ones in the Ellendale Baptist Church can be witnessed

to by anyone who lives in the south part of town. Early last fall work was begun on the church edifice making much needed improvement remodeling and redecorating the entire church so that it would be in readiness for its 65th birthday and for this meeting of the Cheyenne River Association.

The project, as planned by Reverend Kleinsasser, seemed to be such an extensive one that it could hardly be accomplished in one winter, but I think both the pastor and membership of the church must have been inspired by the account in Nehemiah of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem for they proceeded in much the same manner.

Nearly all the work was done by church members who, individually, by families, or in groups, volunteered for certain projects and, in many cases, furnished the necessary materials.

The old furnace was removed and the basement floors and partitions taken out. After that, new concrete floors were laid and the new furnace, a Lennox Air-flow oil furnace, was installed. The kitchen was moved and made smaller but more convenient; one small room was partitioned off for the Beginners' Class and arrangements made to separate the other classrooms with curtains. The basement, ceiling and walls were painted and curtains bought for the windows. Two families presented the church with a dozen fine collapsible tables which can be stored away when not needed. The new electric range and new sink were also gifts from members.

The auditorium has been redecorated, the

floors sanded and varnished, the pews and woodwork varnished, new carpeting has been purchased for the aisles and rostrum, and fluorescent lights installed. The result is that the church is much more convenient, comfortable, and beautiful than when it was new in 1918.

A few of those who were unable to put in long hours at the church contributed their mite by piecing blocks and furnishing other necessary materials to make two comforters for the guest room of the parsonage.

During the past year eleven members have been added to the church by baptism, eleven of them children. The large number of fathers, mothers, and children in our church make the name, "Family Church," very appropriate.

Mrs. Kleinsasser has been a very efficient worker also, especially in directing the choir and supervising the Children's World Crusade.

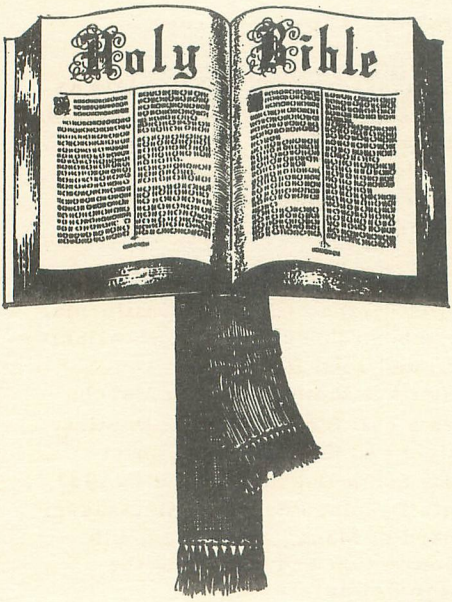
Having enumerated the pastors who have so efficiently led us in the past fifteen years, we want to give special credit to the two State Secretaries who have been responsible for helping us over all the hard places. They are Dr. Fred E. Stockon, who went to his reward on April 3, 1938, and Dr. Roy W. Hodges who has so ably filled the office. Both of these men have spent no end of time, travel and effort to keep our church from going on the rocks financially and helping us find the right pastor for our needs. We owe much to them both.

We find there are but two charter members of the church now living. They are Mrs. Brainard Scott (nee Emma Thompson) now of Walla Walla,

Oregon, and Mrs. Burton Jones (nee Della Thompson) of Newberg, Oregon. We are glad to have letters of greeting from them both, as well as from a number of ex-pastors and friends.

At the time our church and parsonage burned in 1916, our membership was so small and discouraged that if it had not been for two or three loyal members whose love of the church and faith in God were very strong, this church would probably have disbanded and there would have been no sixty-fifth anniversary.

Again we say, "Hitherto both the Lord helped us. Blessed be the name of the Lord."



Our Minister

REVEREND A. J. KLEINSASSER

Reverend Kleinsasser came to Ellendale as pastor of the First Baptist Church March 5, 1948.

He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Kletzing College, University Park, Iowa, June 1939. After graduation he continued his studies at the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, California.

On April 11, 1942, he was united in marriage to Helen Alice Wiens at Dinuba, California. To this union were born three sons, Keith Allan, Albert James Jr., and John Mark.

He was ordained to the ministry in March, 1943 and accepted a call from the First Baptist Church of Bonesteel and the Calvary Baptist Church of Fairfax, South Dakota on June 6, 1943.

While in South Dakota, Reverend Kleinsasser served on the Board of Managers of the South Dakota Baptist Convention and served in the Summer Camps for Baptist Youth.

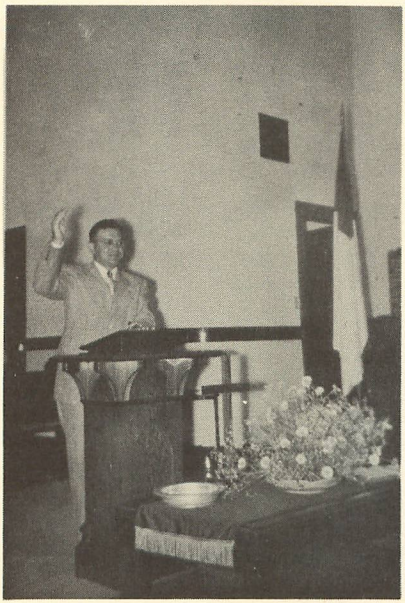
He taught school before entering the ministry and while in Bonesteel served as history and grade athletic director for one year.

He takes an active part in sponsoring the denominational program and is especially active in youth work. At present he is Youth Advisor for the Cheyenne River Association, as well as for the North Dakota Baptist Youth Fellowship. For the past two years served as Director of the

Junior Baptist Camp of North Dakota.

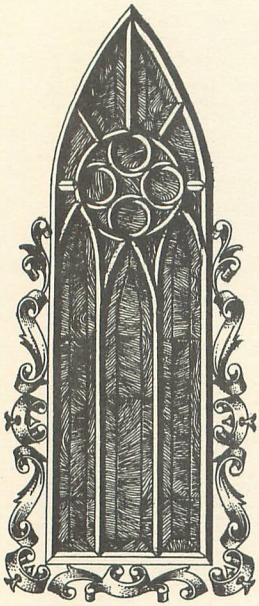
Reverend Kleinsasser is on the Board of Directors of Sioux Falls College.

His interest in youth work goes beyond the work of the church and is manifest in a keen interest in school and sports. He is serving as Vice-President of the local Parent Teachers Association and President of the Ellendale Ministerial Association.



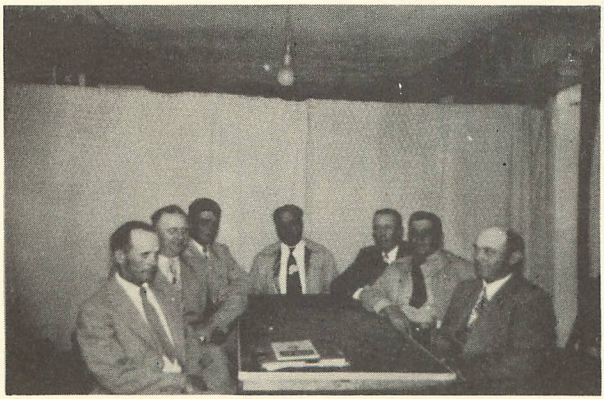
Pastor Kleinsasser preaching

Reverend and Mrs. Kleinsasser
Keith Allen 7, Albert James Jr. 4, John Mark 6 months.

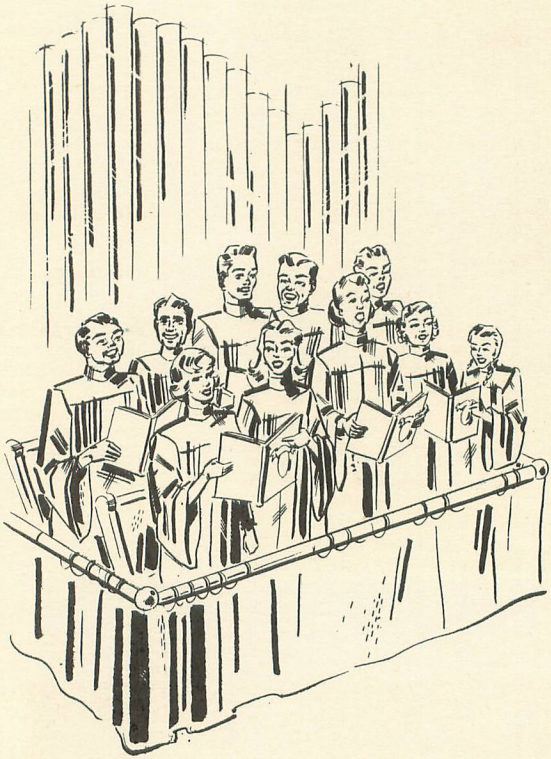


Administration

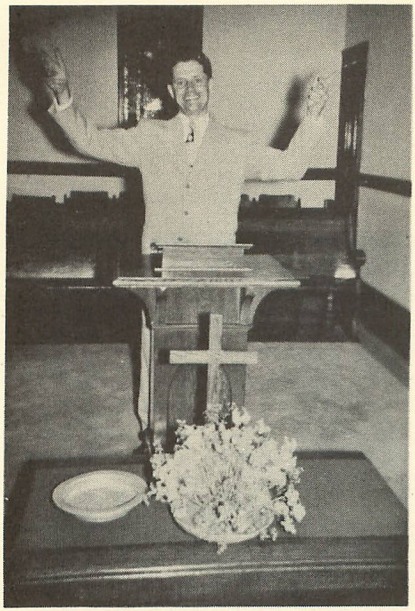
DEACONS
Left to Right: Fred Maack, H. Volz, R. Nelson William Sukut, Adolph Schmidt.



TRUSTEES
Left of Table: Secretary, C. L. Gibson, Carl Maack, Clarence Kast,
Center: Chairman Bert Grenz.
Right of Table: Tracy Mouw, Dan Klein, Milton Pierce.



The Choir



Minister of

Music

C. W. Christian

TRIO
Beverly Imboden, Ida Bollinger
Keith Pierce

OUR CHOIR

First Row: (Left to Right) Donna Fisk, Lorna Maack, Carolyn Pierce, M. Olson, Christian, Beverly Imboden.

Second Row: Mrs. A. Kleinsasser, Mrs. H. Volz, Mrs. Edna Olson, Ida Bollinger.

Third Row: Keith Pierce, Herman Volz, Carl Klein, Eugene Kreiger, Chester Gibson.

Director - C. Wesley Christian.

Pianist, Mrs. Art Schock

Pianist, Miss Lorna Maack

BAPTIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP CHOIR

First Row: Reverend Kleinsasser, Donna Smalle, Sharen Oxenrider, Nona Pierce, Donna Fisk, Carolyn Pierce, Joyce Anderson.

Second Row: Renee Olson, Lorna Belle Maack, Lavetta Gerling, Loraine Trautman, Ida Bollinger, Beverly Imboden, Mrs. C. W. Christian, C. Christian.

Third Row: Keith Pierce, Donald Nuss, Alfred Trautman, LaVerne Gerling, Orville Trautman, Johnny Mouw, Donald Anderson.

Our Members

FRIENDLY FELLOWSHIP OF 127 MEMBERS

Mr. Howard Anderson
Mrs. Howard Anderson
Joyce Anderson
Donald Anderson
Miss Helen Beaver
Mrs. Albert Bauder, Jr.
Mr. Tim Bertsch
Mrs. Tim Bertsch
Miss Ida Bollinger
Mr. C. Wesley Christian
Mrs. C. Wesley Christian
Mrs. Nina Carpenter
Mr. Norman DeBoer
Mrs. Norman DeBoer
Miss Donna Lee Fisk
Mrs. H. D. Gibson
Mr. Chester L. Gibson
Mrs. Chester L. Gibson
Wayne Gibson
Mrs. Otto Gerling
Laverne Gerling
Lavetta Gerling
Lavana Gerling
Mr. Bert Grenz
Mrs. Bert Grenz
Cora Lee Grenz
Mr. Otto Gunther
Mrs. Roy Hanson
Yvonne Hanson
Mrs. Waldron Higgs
Robert Higgs
Mrs. William Hokanna
Miss Beverly Imboden
Mrs. Earl Jenner
Mr. Alfred Johnson
Mr. Daniel Klein
Mrs. Daniel Klein

Mr. Carl Klein
Mrs. Carl Klein
Karen Klein
Mr. Jake Klein
Mrs. Jake Klein
Mr. Phillip Klein
Mrs. Phillip Klein
Jerry Klein
Mr. Clarence Kast
Mrs. Clarence Kast
Mr. A. J. Kleinsasser
Mrs. A. J. Kleinsasser
Keith Kleinsasser
Eugene Krieger
Mrs. Herbert Kuck
Mr. Erroll Lilleboe
Mrs. Erroll Lilleboe
Mr. Carl Maack
Mrs. Carl Maack
Miss Lorna Maack
Mr. Fred Maack
Mrs. Fred Maack
Mr. Arthur Markhardt
Mrs. Arthur Markhardt
Mr. Tracy Mouw
Mrs. Tracy Mouw
Johnny Mouw
Dorothy Mouw
Amy Mouw
Mr. Raymond Nelson
Mrs. Raymond Nelson
Delbert Nelson
Donald Nelson
Mrs. Chris Neuman
Miss Marilyn Neuman
Mrs. Matilda Nuss
Mr. Donald Nuss

Mrs. Edna Olson
Renee Olson
Marlene Olson
Betty Olson
Dennis Olson
June Olson
Mrs. Walter Oxenrider
Sharon Oxenrider
Jane Oxenrider
Mary Oxenrider
Mr. Milton Pierce
Mrs. Milton Pierce
Keith Pierce
Kenneth Pierce
Carolyn Pierce
Nona Pierce
Mrs. John O. Peck
Mr. Adolph Schmidt
Mrs. Adolph Schmidt
Mr. William Sukut
Mrs. William Sukut
Mr. Marvin Sukut
Mrs. Art Schock
Miss Winifred Tousley
Mrs. Joe Townsend
Mr. Emil Trautman
Mrs. Emil Trautman
Lorraine Trautman
Orville Trautman
Marvin Trautman
Alfred Trautman
Betty Trautman
Mr. Herman Trautman
Mrs. Herman Trautman
Mr. Herman Volz
Mrs. Herman Volz
Sheila Volz
Mrs. Charles Wahl
Mrs. F. L. Werden

NON-RESIDENT MEMBERS

Mr. Sidney V. Anderson
Mrs. Sidney V. Anderson

Miss Mary Green

Mrs. LeRoy Honeck

Mr. Ruben Kusler
Mrs. Ruben Kusler

Miss Jennie Nelson

Mr. Winfred O'Dell

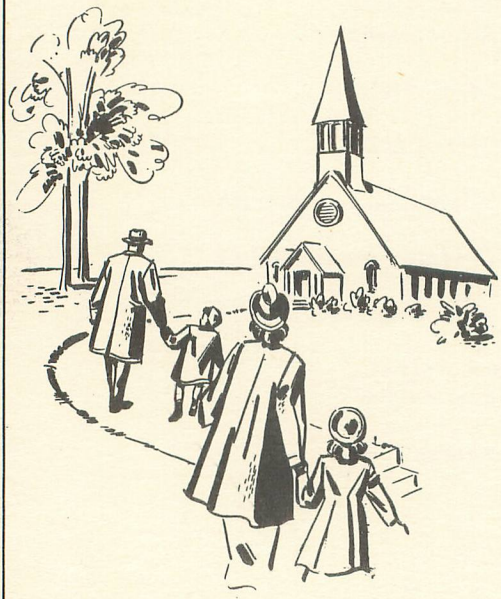
Mrs. Sylvia (Paacek) Skjefte

Mrs. Lorraine Schandelmier

Miss Odessa Stucker

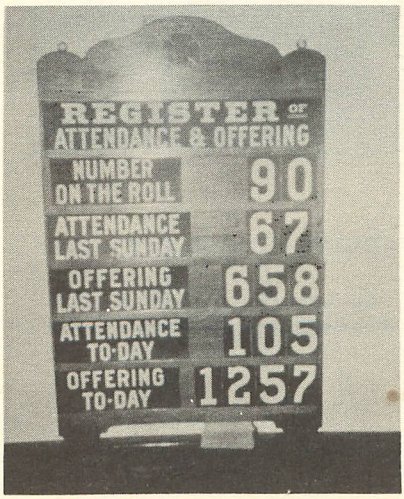
Mr. Ben Wagner
Mrs. Ben Wagner

Mrs. Esther Dietz



Sunday School

Right to Left: Superintendent, Raymond Nelson,
Superintendent of Jr. Department,
Beverly Imboden.
Superintendent of Cradle Roll,
Mrs. Roy Hanson.
Assistant Superintendent, Norman
DeBoer.



RECORD ATTENDANCE, July 9, 1950

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS

Secretary - Renee Olson
Treasurer - Kenneth Pierce

BEGINNERS

First Row: (Seated) Patricia Wagner, Valerie Jenner, Gary Kuch, Westland.

Second Row: (Seated) Butch Hoaglund, Suzonne Jenner, Al James Kleinsasser, Lloyd Trautman, Douglas Strand, Bethel Maack.

Standing: David Maach, Ruth Mouw, Jimmy Nelson, Joe Volz, Curtiss Kast, Melvina Olson, Loraine Trautman, Mrs. B. Grenz, teachers.

Not in Picture - Max Gerling, Gary Bertsch.

PRIMARY

Seated: Carvel Myhrum, Sandra Volz, Sandra Myhrum, Keith Kleinsasser, Donald Westland, Carol Bobzein, Kay Gesme.

Standing: Lana Imboden, Sheila Volz, Nancy Dahl, Jane Oxenrider, Jerry Klein, Donna Gesme, Mary Oxenrider, Mrs. H. Anderson, teacher.

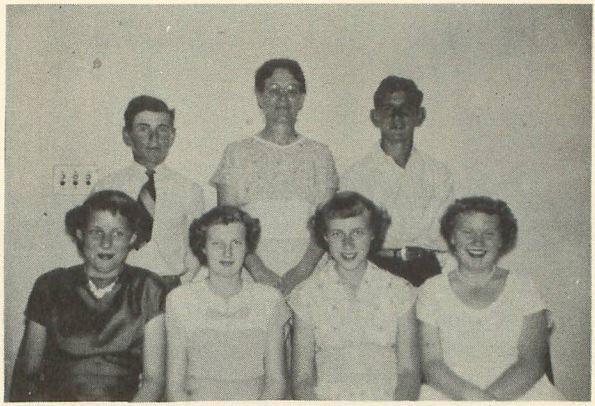
Not in Picture - Lester Krause, Curtis Nueman.

JUNIORS

Seated: Dennis Olson, Yvonne Hanson, Betty Trautman, Karen Klein, Donald Nelson, Amy Mouw.

Standing: Dorothy Mouw, Darlene Barton, Patricia Strand, Rosemary Bobzein, Nona Pierce, Cora Lee Grenz, Keith Pierce, teacher.

Not in Picture - June Olson, Helen Beaver, Mary Jo Hall, Phyllis Bertsch.

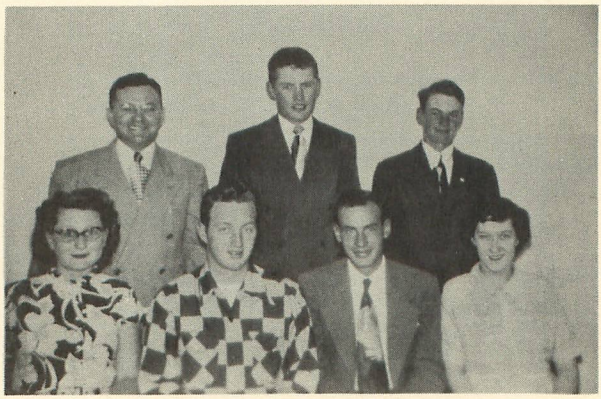


HIGH SCHOOL

Front Row: (Left to Right) Renee Olson, Joyce Anderson, Marlenee Olson, Lorna Maack.

Second Row: Alfred Trautman, Mrs. Walter Oxenrider, teacher; Marvin Trautman.

Not in Picture - Marilyn Nuemann, Wayne Gibson



YOUNG ADULTS

Front Row: Ida Bollinger, Guest, Guest, Beverly Imboden.

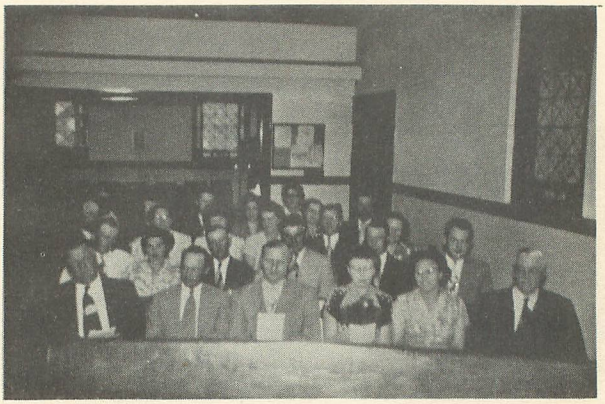
Back Row: Reverend Kleinsasser, Teacher; C. C. Pierce and Orville Trautmann.

INTERMEDIATES

Seated: Donna Fisk, Betty Olson, Sharon Oxenrider, Carmen Phillips, Carolyn Pierce.

Standing: Mrs. C. Gibson, Donald Anderson, Lawrence Barton, Johnny Mouw, Arthur Trautman.

Standing: (Second Row) Mrs. Carl Maack, Lavetta Gerling.



ADULT CLASS

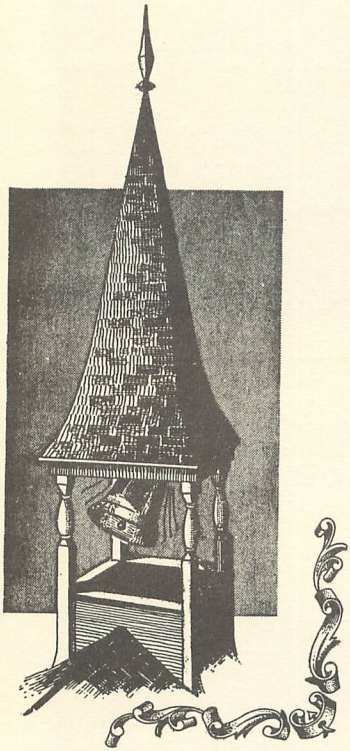
First Row: (Left to Right) Bert Grenz, Chester Gibson, Carl Maack, Edna Olson, Mrs. F. Maack, Alfred Johnson.

Second Row: Herbert Kuck, Mrs. H. Kuck, Howard Anderson, C. Kast, Fred Maack, Herman Volz.

Third Row: Tracy Mouw, Mrs. T. Mouw, Miss Westland, Mr. and Mrs. Westland, Mrs. Kleinsasser.

Fourth Row: Dan Klein, Mrs. D. Klein, W. Christian, Mrs. W. Christian, Mrs. M. Pierce, Milton Pierce.

Fifth Row: Mrs. H. Volz, teacher.



Organizations

MISSIONARY SOCIETY OFFICERS

(Right to Left): President, Mrs. Phil Klein, Vice-President, Mrs. Milton Pierce, Secretary, Mrs. Earl Jenner, Treasurer, Mrs. Roy Hanson.

MISSIONARY SOCIETY

BAPTIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

BAPTIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP OFFICERS

(Right to Left): President, Beverly Imboden, Vice-President, Marlene Olson, Secretary, Renee Ann Olson, Treasurer, Lorna Belle Maack.

S I N G 'N S I P

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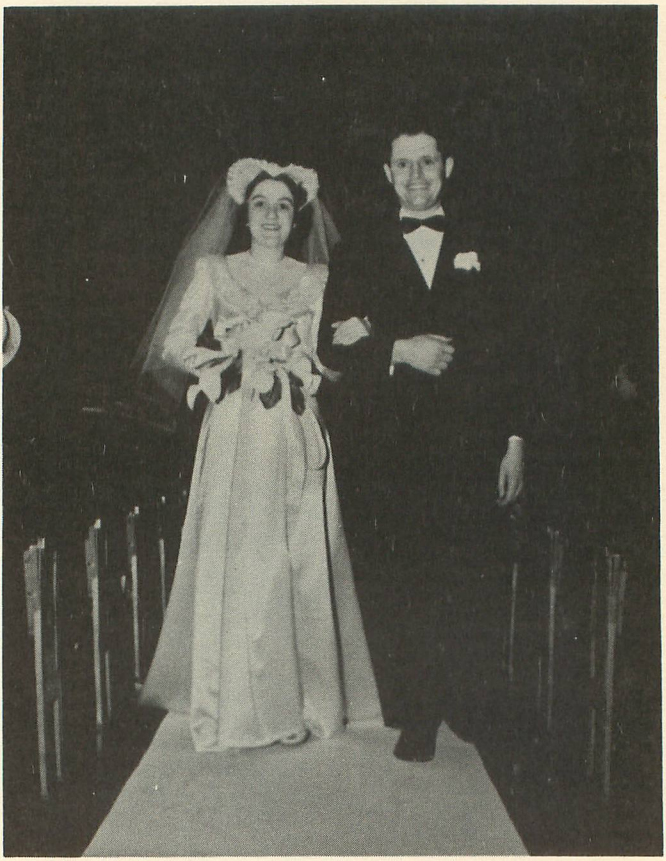
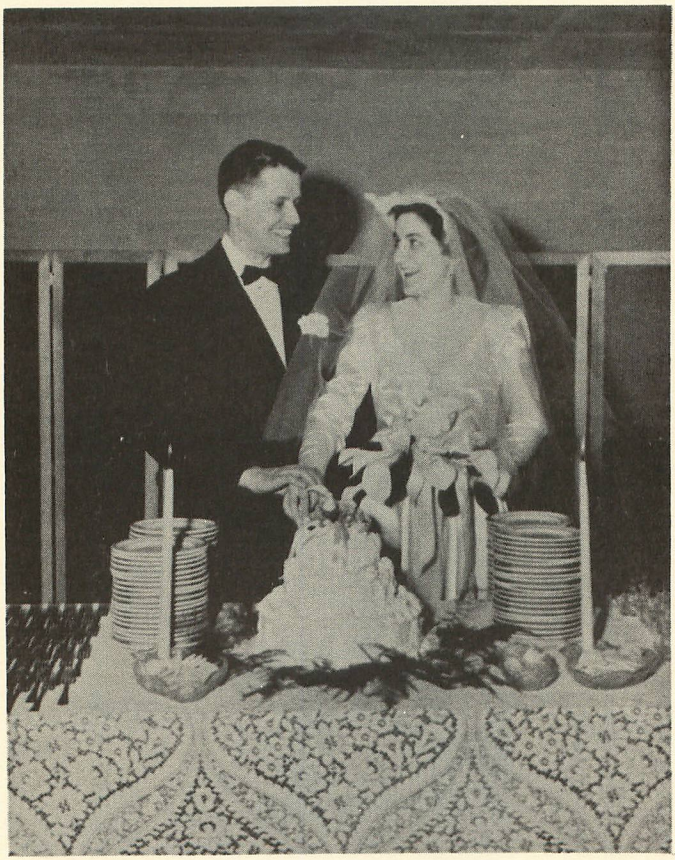
KING'S HERALDS
(Left to Right): David Maack, J. Nelson, B. Maack, Joseph Volz, Al James Kleinsasser, Mrs. Walter Oxenrider, Sponsor.

CHILDREN'S WORLD CRUSADERS
First Row: K. Kleinsasser, S. Volz, M. Oxenrider, B. Trautman, Sandra Volz.
Second Row: Don Nelson, Mrs. B. Maack, Sponsor, Cora Lee Grenz, Jane Oxenrider.



Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Christian
April 8, 1950



Another scene of the wedding of
Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Christian

WALSWORTH
Lithographed & Bound by
WALSWORTH BROTHERS
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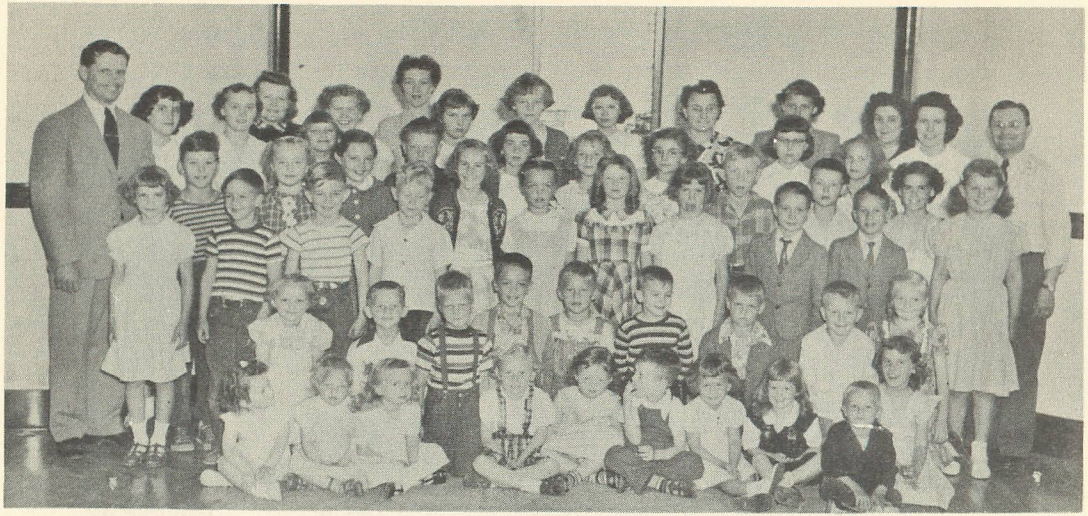

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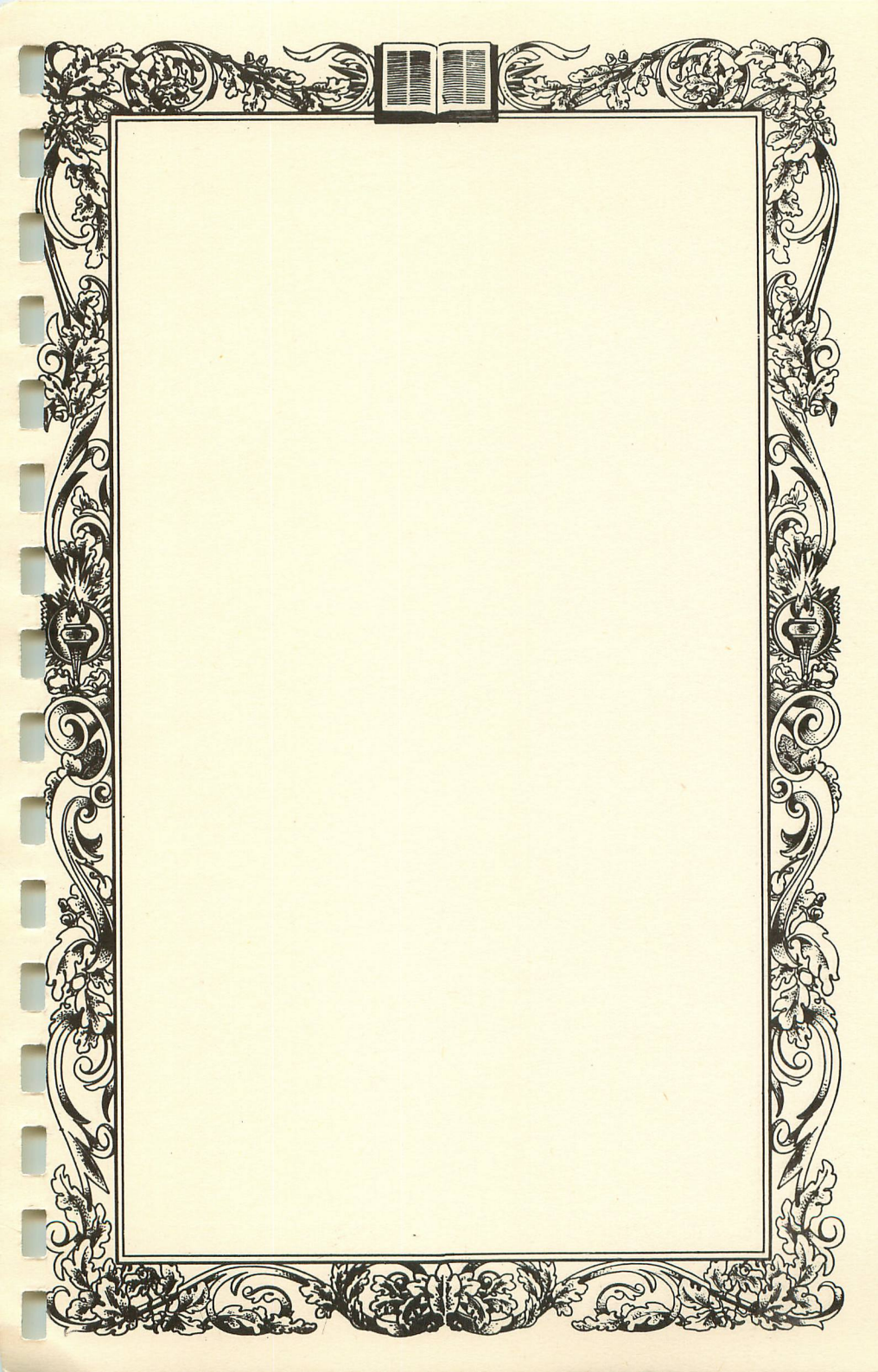
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